
**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, December 24,
1810, from Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe
Correspondence, Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W.
Gawalt, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson

Albemarle Decr. 24. 1810.

Dear Sir

I arrived here last night indisposed and must return in the stage to morrow or should have the pleasure to call on you. It was necessary that I should be present at the transfer of my property from one overseer to another, for which purpose I obtained leave of absence for a few days.

Mr. Ritchie informed Mr. Coles that an anonymous communication had been sent him, stating that you had had a correspondence with the Comrs. or Trustees for opening the river near Milton, throwing light on the subject of inland navigation, and that application had been made to them for a copy of it, with a view to lay it before the publick, which had been refused. He consulted me on the subject. I suggested the propriety of withholding the publication for the present, and writing to the comrs. for a copy, on the idea that in that mode the object might be obtained without the possibility of putting you in collision with any of your neighbours. The hint was adopted, as I was informed by Ritchie in a conversation I had with him the day before I left town. A knowledge of the occurrence may possible be of some use to you.

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We have so far avanc'd in the

business of the assembly with much harmony, and there does not appear at this moment to be in any one a disposition to interrupt it. In my judgement the true course is to let the legislature pass thro' the session without being called on to interfere with the national concerns. I think that such a course would tend essentially to conciliate the members of the republican party towards each other, and to draw them more closely together than has been done of late. My earnest object is to promote that end, and if I am not drive by propositions bearing unfavorably on transactions to which I was a party, in self defence, to place my conduct in a just light, it is possible that I may contribute to it. Propositions of this kind, from what I can discern, are not likely to come from any but such as profess to be the friends of the admn. but who have other objects than its welfare, and wh. may be pleased at a collision between it and me from motives very distant from those that are connected with the publick good.

I am dear sir very sincerely your friend & servant Jas. Monroe

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